

**Amendments to the Specification**

Please amend the specification as follows:

On page 1, please replace the paragraph spanning lines 5-15, under the heading "Cross Reference to Related Application with the following replacement paragraph:

This application is the U.S. national stage of International Application No. PCT/US98/21168, filed under 35 U.S.C. § 371, which is a continuation-in-part of USSN 08/946,298, filed on October 7, 1998, now issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,864,060, the specifications of which are hereby incorporated by reference.

Please replace the paragraph at page 14, spanning lines 2-3, with the following replacement paragraph.

Figure 1 is a sequence alignment of N-terminal regions of Gα subunits and N-terminal sequences of GPA41-Gα hybrid proteins (SEQ ID NOs: 107, 110, 111, and 114).